

1. Method of transmitting data packets in a packet stream, the data packet having compressed headers, the method comprising the steps of:

compressing a header using a context;

transmitting at least one update packet containing data indicating said context;

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transmitting at least one non-update packet;

wherein the method further comprises the steps of:

detecting an irregular change of the packet stream;

obtaining at least one packet stream parameter; and

transmitting either an extended update packet or an extended non-update packet dependent on the determined packet stream parameter, the extended packet including information about the irregular change.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the packet stream parameter is the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

15 3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of:

entering a context update phase if the number of packets sent since the last update phase is greater than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

20 4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the maximum number of consecutive packet loss has been estimated by extracting a sequence number from a received NACK message and comparing the extracted sequence number with the current sequence number.

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the number of extended update packets is set dependent on the packet stream parameter.

6. The method according to claim 2, wherein the step of obtaining at least one packet stream parameter includes obtaining the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid.

5 7. The method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of comparing the maximum number of consecutive loss and the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid, wherein extended update packets are transmitted only if the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is greater than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

10 8. The method according to claim 6, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by checking the RTP Payload Type field and accessing a codec look-up table.

15 9. The method according to claim 6, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by retrieving observed packet stream properties.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of obtaining at least one packet stream parameter includes the step of applying a safety factor.

11. Apparatus for transmitting data packets in a packet stream, the data packets having compressed headers, the apparatus comprising:  
20 a compressor for compressing a header using a context;  
transmission means for transmitting a least one update packet containing data indicating said context and at least one non-update packet;  
detection means for detecting an irregular change of the packet stream; and  
25 control means for obtaining at least one packet stream parameter and controlling said transmission means to transmit either an extended update packet or an extend non-update packet dependent on the determined packet steam parameter, the extended packet including information about the irregular change.

12. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the packet stream parameter is the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising means for entering a context update phase if the number of packets sent since the last update phase is greater than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

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14. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the maximum number of consecutive packet loss has been estimated by extracting a sequence number from a received NACK message and comparing the extracted sequence number with the current sequence number.

10 15. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the number of extended update packets is set dependent on the packet stream parameter.

16. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said control means is arranged for obtaining the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid.

15 17. The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising means for comparing the maximum number of consecutive loss and the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid, wherein extended update packets are transmitted only if the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid is greater than the maximum number of consecutive packet loss.

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18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by checking the RTP Payload Type field and accessing a codec look-up table.

19. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the number of subsequent packets for which the irregular change is valid has been estimated by retrieving observed packet stream properties.

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20. The apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said control means is arranged for applying a safety factor.

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